



Delegation of representatives of the Americas to observe the Salvadoran presidential election

San Salvador, March 10, 2009 – Parliamentarians delegated by the **Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas** (COPA) arrived today in El Salvador to observe the March 15th presidential election. The senator of the province of Buenos Aires in Argentina and COPA 1st Vice-President, Edda Acuña, will head up the electoral observation mission from March 11 to 16. More than a dozen parliamentarians from Columbia's Senate, Brazil's Chamber of Deputies, Mexico's Senate, the Legislative Assembly of the Federal District of Mexico, Québec's National Assembly, Venezuela's National Assembly and Venezuela's Andean Parliament are also taking part in the mission.

Invited by El Salvador's Supreme Electoral Tribunal as international observers, the COPA parliamentarians will cover as many polling stations as possible on election day. The delegation will also meet with key actors in the electoral process in order to be better positioned to assess election organization in the country. The presidential candidates and the heads of a number of public bodies and civil society organizations will be among those consulted by the COPA delegation. Following the mission, the parliamentarians will present a report of their observations to the Salvadoran electoral authorities and to COPA authorities.

This is the 8th such mission for COPA. By taking an increasingly active role in election monitoring throughout the Americas, COPA has established its strategic importance in the consolidation of democracy.

Founded in Québec City in 1997, the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) brings together over 300 parliamentary assemblies of unitary, federal and federated states, as well as the regional parliaments and interparliamentary organizations of the Americas. For additional information on previous COPA electoral observation missions, please visit the following website: www.copa.qc.ca.

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